

LISA CLARKSON RECEIVED
FEDERAL ELECTION
COMMISSION
Virginia Beach, Virginia, 23456

2016 JUN 1 PM 12:08
WR

OFFICE OF GENERAL
COUNSEL
May 20, 2016

Office of General Counsel
Federal Election Commission
999 E Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20463

MUR # 7078

RE: Complaint against Scott Taylor, individually, and Scott Taylor for Congress,
John G. Selph, in his official capacity as treasurer

To Whom It May Concern:

Pursuant to 52 U.S.C. §30109 and 11 C.F.R. § 111.4, Lisa Clarkson files this Complaint against Scott Taylor, an announced candidate for the Republican nomination for the House of Representatives from the Second District of Virginia and against Scott Taylor for Congress, John Selph, in his official capacity as Treasurer, (collectively, "Respondents").

Complainant is an individual citizen, a resident of the 2d congressional district of Virginia and a member of the Virginia House of Delegates. This complaint is filed in my individual capacity as a citizen of the Commonwealth of Virginia.

The complaint is filed against Respondents for multiple violations of the Federal Election Campaigns Act, Title 52 United States Code, Subtitle III, Chapter 301, Subchapter I ("the Act") and the regulations promulgated thereunder by the Federal Election Commission ("FEC").

Respondent has been and continues to be in violation of federal law, evidencing a flagrant disregard of the statutes and regulations that govern campaigns for federal office as more fully detailed below.

Respondent Scott Taylor has a pattern and a history of violating federal law.

I. Respondent Scott Taylor repeatedly ignored federal law and failed to file mandatory reports of receipts and disbursements pursuant to 52 U.S.C. §30104(a)(2) and (i) when he was a candidate for Congress in 2010 and for five years thereafter.

While a candidate for Congress in 2010, Respondent failed to file the mandatory October quarterly report prior to the November 2010 General Election for Scott Taylor for Congress.

See Notice of Failure to File October 2010 Quarterly:
<http://www.fec.gov/fecviewer/CandidateCommitteeDetail.do>

Following his failure to file the October 2010 Quarterly, Respondent Scott Taylor further failed to file the Year End 2010 Report. See Notice of Failure to File 2010 Year End Report.

<http://www.fec.gov/fecviewer/CandidateCommitteeDetail.do>

In fact, Respondent failed to file another *sixteen* (16) mandatory reports required under federal law:

2011:

FEC Notice of Failure to File April Quarterly Report
FEC Notice of Failure to File July Quarterly Report
FEC Notice of Failure to File October Quarterly Report
FEC Notice of Year End Report

2012:

FEC Notice of Failure to File April Quarterly Report
FEC Notice of Failure to File July Quarterly Report
FEC Notice of Failure to File October Quarterly Report
FEC Notice of Year End Report

2013:

FEC Notice of Failure to File April Quarterly Report
FEC Notice of Failure to File July Quarterly Report
FEC Notice of Failure to File October Quarterly Report
FEC Notice of Year End Report

2014:

FEC Notice of Failure to File April Quarterly Report
FEC Notice of Failure to File July Quarterly Report
FEC Notice of Failure to File October Quarterly Report
FEC Notice of Year End Report

Then, in 2015, after failing to file a *nineteenth* (19th) legally required FEC report, the April 2015 Quarterly Report, the FEC finally issued a notice unilaterally terminating the Scott Taylor for Congress committee. See *Notice of Termination*, June 11, 2015.

<http://www.fec.gov/fecviewer/CandidateCommitteeDetail.do>

See also, Index of Filings and Notices, Scott Taylor for Congress – 2010 cycle. Exhibit #1

II. Respondent Scott Taylor has evidenced a similar pattern of ignoring federal law in the 2016 election cycle, having committed multiple violations of federal law governing federal campaigns and candidates.

Following are *some* of the multiple legal violations committed by Scott Taylor and his campaign over the past several weeks.

Respondent Scott Taylor announced his candidacy publicly on or before January 16, 2016, as evidenced by an article that appeared in The Virginian-Pilot on January 16, 2016. See Exhibit #2. From the very beginning of his congressional campaign in January of this year, Respondents have committed numerous and repeated violations of law.

1. Respondent formally announced his candidacy for Congress using his Virginia state Delegate letterhead, resources and other property on January 19, 2016. See Exhibit #3, Scott Taylor announcement for Congress.
2. The public communication from Respondent Taylor announcing his congressional candidacy not only uses his state legislative letterhead and resources, but the public communication contains none of the disclaimers and public notices that all federal political committees and congressional candidates are required under federal law to include. See 52 U.S.C. §30120; 11 C.F.R. §110.11
3. Respondent Scott Taylor began soliciting contributions for a federal campaign as early as January 16, 2016, hosting multiple public events. Samples of the Facebook postings appear below:

- <https://www.facebook.com/events/939298272811994/>
- <https://www.facebook.com/events/491869387681657/>

4. Respondent Scott Taylor triggered candidate status no later than January 20, 2016 by accepting on that date more than \$5,000 (\$8900.00) in contributions in furtherance of his 2016 federal candidacy, having already publicly stating he was a candidate for federal office four days earlier. See 11 C.F.R. §100.

See April 2016 Quarterly FEC Report, Scott Taylor for Congress.
<http://docquery.fec.gov/cgi-bin/fecimg? 201604159012489107+0>

5. Respondents filed no Statement of Organization until February 4, 2016, and when it was filed, Respondents failed to identify the candidate for whom the committee was established, as required by law. The failure to file the proper FEC documentation resulted in a Request for Additional Information ("RFI") from the Federal Election Commission on February 21, 2016, which then necessitated an amended Statement of Organization, in order to comply with the statutory requirements. The corrected form was not filed until February 23, 2016. See FEC website, index of reports filed by Respondents:
<http://www.fec.gov/fecviewer/CandidateCommitteeDetail.do>

Accordingly, Respondents failed to properly file the required federal candidate and authorized candidate committee forms until well beyond the statutory deadline for filing such forms with the FEC. See 52 U.S.C. §30101(2); 11 C.F.R. §100.3.

6. Respondents began soliciting signatures for ballot access as a congressional candidate well before his federal candidacy was registered properly with the FEC.

In addition, Respondents have conducted multiple events and fundraising solicitations since early January 2016, intermingled with events and activities related to Respondent's Virginia legislative service,

<https://www.facebook.com/scotttaylorvirginia?fref=ts>

7. The history of public events, including fundraising events conducted at public places appear on Respondents' Facebook pages, as indicated above. However, no fundraising costs for hosting such events are included in Respondents' April 2016 Quarterly FEC Report.

See Report of Expenditures, Scott Taylor for Congress

http://docquery.fec.gov/cgi-bin/fecimg?_201604159012489107+0

8. For a period of time in January and February 2016, Respondents' website for Congress was the same website and URL used by Respondent Scott Taylor for his state legislative campaign: www.scotttaylorforva.com, for which no payment was made by Scott Taylor for Congress to reimburse his state legislative committee for the costs of promoting Scott Taylor's campaign for Congress. Likewise, the emails sent by Respondent Taylor announcing his candidacy and soliciting funds, ballot signatures and promoting his candidacy in January and early February, all appeared on or through the Scott Taylor for Delegate website, using the URL purchased by the state legislative campaign.

There are no reimbursements from the federal committee to the state campaign committee reflected in the Respondents' April 2016 Quarterly FEC report.

http://docquery.fec.gov/cgi-bin/fecimg?_201604159012489107+0

Absent payment by the congressional campaign committee for the expenses of the congressional campaign, using the state legislative resources result in an unreported in-kind contribution from the state legislative campaign to the Respondents' federal campaign committee. Such in-kind contributions are required under federal law to be reported (See 52 U.S.C. §§30104(b), 30114; 11 C.F.R. §104.3)

9. Respondents report a contribution from an LLC in the amount of \$1,000, note that it was 'attributed equally to owners', but then do not disclose the owners to whom it was attributed and the amount attributed to each, nor did the Respondents confirm that the LLC is taxed as a partnership as required by federal law. See page 6A, Scott Taylor for Congress April 2016 Quarterly FEC Report.
http://docquery.fec.gov/cgi-bin/fecimg?_201604159012489107+0

A contribution from an LLC is subject to certain reporting obligations that Respondents have apparently disregarded. See 11 C.F.R. §110.1(g).

Arguments and Authorities

Congress enacted the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971, as amended, more than forty-five years ago. The statute was recently recodified as the Federal Election Campaigns Act, Title 52 United States Code, Subtitle III, Chapter 301, Subchapter I. There are myriad regulations and legal obligations imposed on candidates for Congress and their campaign committees, which are published annually by the Federal Election Commission.

These are the laws of the United States. And until they are repealed or amended, they are to be honored and obeyed.

Clearly, Respondent Scott Taylor has made absolutely *no* effort to conform to the federal laws, whether in his first campaign for Congress in 2010 or in 2016. Apparently, he does not believe these laws apply to him.

Hundreds and hundreds of other federal candidates and committees make certain to learn and follow the campaign finance laws of our country. It is not acceptable for an individual to willfully disregard the campaign finance laws and regulations to which ALL congressional candidates and campaigns are subject.

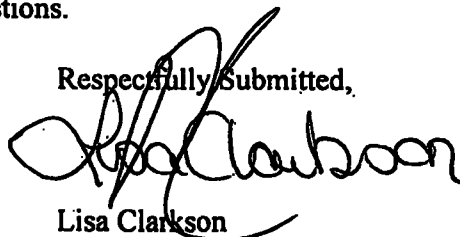
Respondents apparently do not take seriously the legal obligations that govern every other candidate for Congress. Failure to abide by the laws and to flagrantly ignore basic legal requirements is simply not acceptable. Respondents should be held to account for their actions and omissions and should be subject to the strongest enforcement action against them for these serious violations.

Conclusion

Upon information and belief, and based upon the facts contained in this Complaint, Respondents Scott Taylor, individually, and Scott Taylor for Congress, John G. Selph, in his official capacity as treasurer, have violated the Federal Election Campaigns Act, Title 52 United States Code, Subtitle III, Chapter 301, Subchapter I, as detailed herein, and Respondents should be held fully accountable for their disregard of federal law as stated above.

Please contact me if you have further questions.

Respectfully Submitted,



Lisa Clarkson

Virginia Beach, Virginia 23456

AFFIRMATION

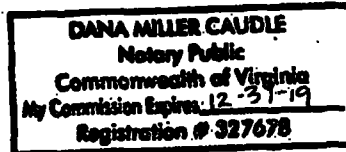
State of Virginia , City of Virginia Beach

Before me this 25th day of May, 2016, appeared Lisa Clarkson and under penalty of perjury did swear and affirm that the above and foregoing facts are true and correct to the best of ~~his~~ knowledge and belief.
her ~~or~~

SEAL

Dana Miller Caudle
Notary Public

My Commission Expires:



Two-Year Period

2010

2010 COMMITTEE
INFORMATION

C00468264

Name: SCOTT TAYLOR FOR CONGRESS

Address: 2100 MEDITERRANEAN AVENUE#247,
VIRGINIA BEACH, VA 23451

Treasurer Name: ITHIEL HARLEY THOMAS IV

Type: H - HOUSE

Designation: P - PRINCIPAL CAMPAIGN
COMMITTEE OF A CANDIDATE

Party: REPUBLICAN PARTY

CANDIDATE INFORMATION

TAYLOR, SCOTT W

ID:

H0VA02118

Office: H - House

State: VA, **District:** 02

Jump To

2015

CURRENT COMMITTEE
INFORMATION

C00468264

Name: SCOTT TAYLOR FOR CONGRESS

Address: 2100 MEDITERRANEAN AVENUE#247,
VIRGINIA BEACH, VA 23451

Treasurer Name: ITHIEL HARLEY THOMAS IV

Type: H - HOUSE

Designation: P - PRINCIPAL CAMPAIGN
COMMITTEE OF A CANDIDATE

CANDIDATE INFORMATION

TAYLOR, SCOTT

ID:

H0VA02118

Office: H - House

State: VA, **District:** 02

Party: REPUBLICAN PARTY

2015

Document Filed	Amended	Filed On	From Date	End Date	Pages	Page by Page	View / Download
Administrative Termination		06/11/2015			2	15031431622	PDF
RFAI - Failure to File - April Quarterly		05/01/2015	01/01/2015	03/31/2015	2	15330081883	PDF

2014

Document Filed	Amended	Filed On	From Date	End Date	Pages	Page by Page	View / Download
RFAI - Failure to File - April Quarterly		05/02/2014	01/01/2014	03/31/2014	2	14330050942	PDF
RFAI - Failure to File - July Quarterly		08/04/2014	04/01/2014	06/30/2014	2	14330055956	PDF
RFAI - Failure to File - October Quarterly		10/31/2014	07/01/2014	09/30/2014	2	14330063564	PDF
RFAI - Failure to File - Year- End		02/18/2015	10/01/2014	12/31/2014	2	15330075004	PDF

2013

Document Filed	Amended	Filed On	From Date	End Date	Pages	Page by Page	View / Download
RFAI - Failure to File - April Quarterly		05/03/2013	01/01/2013	03/31/2013	2	13330030756	PDF
RFAI - Failure to File - July Quarterly		08/02/2013	04/01/2013	06/30/2013	2	13330035063	PDF
RFAI - Failure to File - October Quarterly		11/01/2013	07/01/2013	09/30/2013	2	13330039660	PDF
RFAI - Failure to File - Year- End		02/19/2014	10/01/2013	12/31/2013	2	14330044044	PDF

2012

Document Filed	Amended	Filed On	From Date	End Date	Pages	Page by Page	View / Download
RFAI - Failure to File - April Quarterly		05/02/2012	01/01/2012	03/31/2012	2	12030801956	PDF
RFAI - Failure to File - July Quarterly		07/31/2012	04/01/2012	06/30/2012	2	12030870804	PDF

RFAI - Failure to File - October Quarterly	10/31/2012 07/01/2012 09/30/2012	2 12030942558 PDF
RFAI - Failure to File - Year- End	02/15/2013 10/01/2012 12/31/2012	2 13330023519 PDF

2011

Document Filed	Amended	Filed On	From Date	End Date	Pages	Page by Page	View / Download
RFAI - Failure to File - April Quarterly		05/03/2011	01/01/2011	03/31/2011	2	11030602882	PDF
RFAI - Failure to File - July Quarterly		08/01/2011	04/01/2011	06/30/2011	2	11030644362	PDF
RFAI - Failure to File - October Quarterly		11/03/2011	07/01/2011	09/30/2011	2	11030684069	PDF
RFAI - Failure to File - Year- End		02/16/2012	10/01/2011	12/31/2011	2	12030742692	PDF

2010

Document Filed	Amended	Filed On	From Date	End Date	Pages	Page by Page	View / Download
Statement Of Organization	Amend	03/08/2010			3	10030263682	PDF
April Quarterly	New	04/15/2010	01/01/2010	03/31/2010	23	10990583739	PDF HTML / FEC-463083
RFAI - April Quarterly		05/13/2010	01/01/2010	03/31/2010	3	10030331012	PDF
April Quarterly	Amend	05/26/2010	01/01/2010	03/31/2010	25	10990714810	PDF HTML / FEC-472017
RFAI - April Quarterly		06/15/2010	01/01/2010	03/31/2010	3	10030350941	PDF
April Quarterly	Amend	07/17/2010	01/01/2010	03/31/2010	25	10931020932	PDF HTML / FEC-482669
Pre-Primary	New	05/26/2010	04/01/2010	05/19/2010	39	10930780424	PDF HTML / FEC-472085
RFAI - Pre-Primary		06/15/2010	04/01/2010	05/19/2010	3	10030350944	PDF
Pre-Primary	Amend	07/17/2010	04/01/2010	05/19/2010	39	10931020960	PDF HTML / FEC-482672
RFAI - Pre-Primary		07/22/2010	04/01/2010	05/19/2010	3	10030392720	PDF
Pre-Primary	Amend	08/26/2010	04/01/2010	05/19/2010	39	10991120259	PDF HTML / FEC-490571

July Quarterly New 07/15/2010 05/20/2010 06/30/2010 21 10930999704 PDF HTML /
FEC-481887

RFAI - July 07/22/2010 05/20/2010 06/30/2010 3 10030392694 PDF
Quarterly

July Quarterly Amend 08/25/2010 05/20/2010 06/30/2010 21 10991119726 PDF HTML /
FEC-490237

RFAI - July 09/16/2010 05/20/2010 06/30/2010 3 10030423186 PDF
Quarterly

July Quarterly Amend 10/21/2010 05/20/2010 06/30/2010 21 10931711183 PDF HTML /
FEC-508671

RFAI - Failure 11/04/2010 07/01/2010 09/30/2010 2 10030484991 PDF
to File -
October
Quarterly

RFAI - Failure 02/16/20 10/01/2010 12/31/2010 2 11030574136 PDF
to File - Year-
End 11

Termination New 02/17/2011 07/01/2010 09/30/2010 5 11930390355 PDF HTML /
FEC-714848

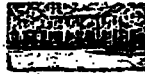
RFAI - 04/08/2011 07/01/2010 09/30/2010 2 11330006941 PDF
Termination

2009

Document Filed	Amen	Filed On	From Date	End Date	Pages	Page by Page	View / Download
Statement Of Organization	New	10/07/2009			5	29030164905	PDF
RFAI - Statement of Organization		11/05/2009		11/05/2009	3	29030182146	PDF
Statement Of Organization	Amen	12/10/2009			5	29030201070	PDF
October Quarterly	New	10/22/2009	07/01/2009	09/30/2009	15	29030180560	PDF HTML / FEC-440176
Year-End	New	01/30/2010	10/01/2009	12/31/2009	35	10030242605	PDF HTML / FEC-456091
RFAI - Year- End		04/13/2010	10/01/2009	12/31/2009	4	10030290382	PDF
Year-End	Amen	05/17/2010	10/01/2009	12/31/2009	37	10030332640	PDF

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Williamsburg
\$460,000



Virginia Beach
\$165,000



Chesapeake
\$369,000



Wilmington
\$160,000



Wilmington
\$238,000

LOCAL POLITICS

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http://pilotonline.com/news/government/politics/local/del-scott-taylor-announces-bid-for-nd-district-congressional-seat/article_8c5571bf-3ade-53f4-adaf-f060d66c9112.html

Del. Scott Taylor announces bid for 2nd District congressional seat

By Bill Bartel
The Virginian-Pilot
Jan 16, 2016



Del. Scott Taylor said he's committed to expanding his base of supporters beyond traditional Republicans.

Courtesy photo

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State Del. Scott Taylor, a former Navy SEAL, said Saturday he's seeking the Republican Party nomination to replace U.S. Rep. Scott Rigell in the state's 2nd Congressional District.

Taylor, 36, is the second GOP contender to step forward since Rigell, a three-term incumbent, said Thursday he would not seek reelection. Taylor already has experience running for Congress, having competed unsuccessfully against Rigell in a six-man Republican primary in 2010. Rigell went on to win the general election, ousting incumbent Democrat Glenn Nye.

Taylor said among his primary concerns are ending the automatic cuts in national defense – known as sequestration – improving the national economy and putting a stronger focus on computer science education among young students.

"We're in a two-year reprieve now with sequester. But it's coming back," he said. "I want to be a strong voice for our military. Not just spending unnecessarily but, on the flip side, not having indiscriminate cuts."

Taylor said the U.S. has to step up education programs to compete in a global high-tech economy.

"We should be exposing kids to data science in elementary school. ... Instead of just playing games they should be designing them," he said.



How you
Power
your business

The candidate said he agrees with Rigell's efforts to expand his base of supporters beyond traditional Republicans.

"That's exactly how I operate," Taylor said. "When I'm representing people, I represent everyone. I go to black, white, brown events. Latino or gay events. I go everywhere. I think that's what you should do."

Taylor, who is a real estate broker, has been a television commentator and wrote a 2013 book, "Trust Betrayed: Barack Obama, Hillary Clinton, and the Selling Out of America's National Security."

He was elected to the state House of Delegates in 2013 and was unopposed when re-elected in November. He had considered running for lieutenant governor in 2017 but said those plans are on hold now that he's seeking the 2nd District post.

He joins Pat Cardwell, an attorney and first-time candidate, who announced Friday he's also is seeking the GOP nomination. Republican officials haven't decided whether they will choose their nominee in a June primary or a convention.

Bill Bartel, 757-446-2398, bill.bartel@pilotonline.com



Del. Scott Taylor's robocalls urge thousands in Chesapeake to tell Forbes to stay put

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Forbes weighs moving to 2nd District – with encouragement from Rigell

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Bill Bartel

Bill Bartel covers federal issues and politics for The Virginian-Pilot.

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Kelley Blue Book

The Real Story Behind This Game-Changing Razor

Harry's

How This Razor is Disrupting a \$13 Billion Industry

Dollar Shave Club



Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Delegate Scott Taylor <scotttaylorpolitics@gmail.com>
Date: January 19, 2016 at 5:11:30 PM EST
To: virginiaconsultants@yahoo.com
Subject: My Decision
Reply-To: scotttaylorpolitics@gmail.com



Scott ☆ ☆ ☆
TAYLOR



VIRGINIA DELEGATE ☆ 85TH DISTRICT

For Immediate Release
1/19/16

Scott Weldon
(202) 876-6345

My Decision

The last few days have been encouraging, to say the least.

I want to tell you about my decision to seek election to the US House of Representatives in Virginia's Second District.

First, let me address my exploration of the Lieutenant Governor's office. It was very humbling, after only being in my third year in Richmond, to have an abundance of conservative elected officials and activists from around Virginia ask me to run. However, before

making this decision official, I thought about what Congressman Rigell's plans for the future might be. After all, I competed with him in the 2010 primary. His decision last week to not to seek reelection has made me reconsider where I could best serve and be impactful on the issues that we all hold important.

As many of you know, I'm passionate about national and international issues. I have written a book about how our national security and foreign policies are dangerously headed down the wrong path. Upon Rep. Rigell's announcement, we did a snapshot poll to the district, where well over two to one voters said I should run for Congress. Friday night we asked folks to come over to Town Center and sign petitions and just 15 hours later on Saturday 300 supporters and four news crews showed up. Clearly, there is interest in - and excitement about - this campaign.

I understand very well that in a power vacuum there will be jockeying for position. Some will win, some will lose, and sometimes, entrenched politicians become insecure and make horrible decisions based on bad advice. I am blessed to have an amazingly loyal family, circle of friends, and supportive base. Your belief in what we can accomplish together gives me strength and I promise to stand shoulder-to-shoulder with you in any fight. I will never abandon this community. I will fight hard and I will never quit.

Everyone knows in their hearts that Washington D.C. is broken and people are demanding real, honest change. Those who have been in Washington for a long time have failed to stem sequestration and the weakening of our national security, stop crushing regulatory burdens, and the unrelenting economic hardships on America's families. Together we will be a force multiplier to change America and our community. Those who show up govern us. Join us

Scott Taylor

P.S. We will be having events all around the district. Tomorrow is our second one at Tubby's Tavern, 5:30-7PM, 2224 Virginia Beach BLVD (at the corner of Great Neck Road and Virginia Beach BLVD). We hope to see you there! We need support for this effort. Every dollar helps and is appreciated. Will you help with \$25, \$50, \$100, \$500, \$1000, or \$2700 today?

—Original Message—
From: Delegate Scott Taylor <scotttaylorpolitics@gmail.com>
To: acedocjmm
Sent: Sat, Jan 23, 2016 6:31 pm
Subject: Delegate Taylor At The PCC Tomorrow!



**Scott ★ ★ ★
TAYLOR**



VIRGINIA DELEGATE ★ 85TH DISTRICT

For Immediate Release
1/23/16

Scott Weldon
(240) 876-6945

Delegate Taylor At The PCC Tomorrow

Delegate Scott Taylor will be at the PCC tomorrow to speak to members of the Philippine community and get Congressional ballot signatures. We hope to see you there! Salamat Po. Join us

Scott Taylor

Congressman Rigell has decided not to seek reelection. Delegate Taylor has stepped up. Will you help with \$25, \$50, \$100, \$500, \$1000, or \$2700 today?

###



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Del. Scott Taylor was elected as delegate for Virginia's 85th District in 2013. He is an author, entrepreneur, Iraq War veteran, and former Navy SEAL. Taylor is a frequent guest on the Fox News Channel discussing foreign policy, national security, and military and veterans' issues. He is also a former member of the Virginia War Memorial Board of Trustees, appointed by Gov. Bob McDonnell. www.scotttaylorva.com

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http://pilotonline.com/news/government/politics/local/del-scott-taylor-s-robocalls-urge-thousands-in-chesapeake-to/article_1c6c3239-cac4-59ea-9855-af35563e81df.html

chesapeake

Del. Scott Taylor's robocalls urge thousands in Chesapeake to tell Forbes to stay put

By Bill Bartel
The Virginian-Pilot
Feb 3, 2016



1000444400-10

2/9/2016

Del. Scott Taylor's robocalls urge thousands in Chesapeake to tell Forbes to stay put | Local Politics | pilotonline.com

Del. Scott Taylor, R-Virginia Beach, right, sponsored the call to try to stop U.S. Rep. Randy Forbes from leaving the 4th District for the 2nd.

Courtesy photo



Vicki Cronis-Nohe | The Virginian-Pilot

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CHESAPEAKE

State Del. Scott Taylor went directly to U.S. Rep. Randy Forbes' Republican supporters in Chesapeake earlier this week, sponsoring more than 5,500 automated calls urging the voters to tell Forbes to run for re-election in his hometown rather than switch to the nearby 2nd Congressional District.

Taylor, a Virginia Beach Republican seeking the 2nd District seat, wants to stop Forbes from switching from the 4th District, which he has represented in Congress since 2001.

In the 75-second recorded message, a woman who calls herself "Erin" refers to Forbes as "our congressman" and says he "is the only Republican who can win our district." At the end of the message, Taylor is heard saying his campaign paid for the Sunday-night calls.

Forbes is contemplating the switch because this year's redrawing of congressional district boundaries has converted the 4th from a strong Republican region to one where Democrats have a majority. The GOP-leaning 2nd, where Virginia Beach is the largest city, is an open seat because three-term incumbent Scott Rigell is not running this year. Rigell has said he'll endorse Forbes if he moves to the 2nd.

Taylor's phone call to Chesapeake voters, selected because they voted in the 2012 GOP presidential primary, warns that a Democrat will be elected in the 4th if Forbes doesn't run there.

"Over the years, we've invested millions of dollars, time and energy into Randy Forbes. And we have fought for him in past campaigns," the woman said. "This is a time when Randy needs to fight for us – not run off to Virginia Beach because it may be easier to get elected over there. Leaders put themselves at risk for their people – not the other way around."

When asked about the phone calls Wednesday, Forbes spokeswoman Hailey Sadler said in an email: "Congressman Forbes continues to be overwhelmed by the enormous outpouring of support from across the 2nd district. The only thing we've heard about the robocalls is how annoyed people were to receive them."

The technique used by Taylor's campaign is known as a "push poll." It's meant to spread an idea as much as to collect public opinion. The speaker presents an issue with a strong point of view and then asks the recipient whether he or she agrees.

In this case, the Chesapeake voters were asked whether they wanted Forbes to "run to be our congressman and fight for us" or "leave Chesapeake behind and go run for Congress in Virginia Beach."

Of the 5,557 calls, 437 people answered the question, with 97 percent saying Forbes should stay, according to a report by RoboCent, a Virginia Beach-based autodial firm hired by Taylor.

Scott Weldon, spokesman for Taylor's campaign, acknowledged the calls were intended to spread his candidate's views and reach people who might not know about Forbes' quandary.

"We obviously want people to know this is something that is being seriously entertained," Weldon said.

Taylor conducted a separate push poll in Virginia Beach, where more than 2,400 GOP voters were contacted Sunday and Monday. Taylor, in a recorded message, introduced himself as a candidate, lambasted the current Congress and criticized Forbes for considering giving up his 4th District seat to run in the 2nd.

The recipients were then asked whether, "based on what you know," they would support Taylor or Forbes. Ninety-five percent said they favored Taylor, according to RoboCent.

Forbes, who hasn't spoken publicly about his plans, has been attempting to build support among political leaders and business executives in the 2nd. He and his supporters argue that if he's not returned to Congress, the defense-heavy region will lose its only senior lawmaker

on a crucial panel overseeing the Pentagon. Forbes is chairman of the House Armed Services Committee's Seapower and Projection Forces subcommittee, which oversees Navy and Marine Corps programs.

Some others, including Virginia Beach Sheriff Ken Stolle, a Republican, oppose Forbes making the switch, saying the district should choose one of its own. The U.S. Constitution requires members of Congress to live in their states but not their specific districts.

Bill Bartel, 757-446-2398, bill.

bartel@pilotonline.com



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